

## Happy 30th Anniversary

Jim Robinson recently celebrated his 30th anniversary as a member of the BART staff.



Jim has held numerous positions within the engineering department, handling interesting and complex projects. In the late 80's and early 90's, he was the Supervising Engineer for the Pittsburgh-Antioch extension. "He was one of the backbones of the program," says Steve Kappler, group Manager of Shops & Structures, and Jim's current supervisor and friend of ten years.

*Continued on page 7*

## come to the Rodeo

BART employees, retirees and their families are invited to gather at the Hayward Training Center on Saturday, April 28, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., for BART's 9th Annual Rodeo Competition.

BART employees planning to showcase their arts and crafts at the Rodeo should reserve their space now. Call Ellie Door at 464-6306.

## BART Police Salutes Officers, Citizens



BART Police praises its officers, other BART employees and citizens from the community. Pictured (back row) Bill Black, Alan Espiritu, Bob Murray, Tony Gieda, BPD Officer Glenn Parker, BPD Officer Nathan Weissich, Terry Green, BPD Officer Jason Ledford, Morris Martin and BPD Officer John Davenport; (front row) BPD Comdr. Wade Gomes, Fannie Mackson, James Archie, Darlene Cummins, Nida Balanza, Ber-Name Lin, Maria Fletes, BPD Sgt. Frank Lucarelli, BPD Lt. Steve Langner and BPD Chief Gary Gee. *See story on page 2*

## 25 Years with BART

Congratulations to BART employees reaching 25 years of service with the District: (left to right) Martin C. Gent, Deborah Frankel and Mark Huddleston. **ba**



# BART Police Salute Officers, Employees & Citizens

**B**ART Police Annual Awards were handed out in a ceremony held on February 20.

Awards were presented to "police department employees for exemplary performance" and district employees and citizens from the community for "contributions and efforts to make BART the premier transit system in the country.

Award recipients, family, friends, and BART employees shared in the joy of the festivities. It was standing room only.

The recipients were selected for their "actions that went beyond normal expectations," says Lt. Pam Cherry. "Courage, loyalty, and initiative are the outstanding exponents of all of the recipients. The police department is proud of this opportunity to honor the deserving recipients for their achievements."

Lieutenant Pam Cherry coordinated the ceremony. Tom Margro, BART's General Manager, and BART's Chief of Police Gary Gee welcomed everyone and included their personal thoughts.

The presentation of the awards were by Lt. Maria White, Zone 1 Commander; Lt. Steve Langner, Watch Commander; Cmdr. Clark Lynch, Patrol Bureau Commander; Lt. Greg Savage, Zone 3 Commander; and by Special Operations Bureau Commander Wade Gomes. Awards were presented to the following individuals.

**Citizen Timothy Edwards** for courageous assistance in the arrest of a suspect.

**Citizen Peter Montoya** for taking life saving measures when a citizen had gone into full cardiac arrest.

**BART employee Peter John Lechman** for saving the life of a 10 year old boy by pulling him from the trackway, risking his own life.

**Citizen Roy Smith** for the assistance he provided a Sergeant in arresting a combative suspect.

**BART employee Bryan Tedford** for his brave assistance in the apprehension of a violent and resisting suspect.

**BART employee John Stamos** for his quick actions in saving the life of a distraught BART patron by pulling her from the edge of the platform.

**Detective David Laursen**, for his diligent efforts that have greatly improved the manner in which the San Francisco District Attorney's office handles BART Police complaints, resulting in a much higher percent of arrests, and for developing excellent working relationship between Zone Four personnel and the Criminal Investigations Section.

**Lieutenant Steve Langner, Sergeant Frank Lucarelli, Officer John Davenport, Officer Jason Ledford, Officer Glenn Parker, and Officer Nathan Weissich**, for their hard and dedicated work as a team member of the AFC Task Force. Their individual contributions assisted the Task Force in saving the District over one million dollars in lost revenue.

**BART employees, James Archie, Nida Balanza, Roberta Collier, Darlene Cummins, Allan Espiritu, Maria Fletes, Kathleen Gilbert, Anthony Gieda, Terry Green, Betty Janes, Alaric Johnson, Ber-Name Lin, Fannie Mackson, Morris Martin, Robert Murray, Rose Poblete, George Roth, and Linda Vasquez**, for their individual and collective contributions as members of the AFC Task Force.

**Citizen David J. Doyal** (not present) for his courageous assistance in arresting a combative suspect.

"We honor those people, concerned citizens and employees, who go beyond the call of duty and who assist in community policing," says Chief Gee. 

## 2000 Campaign Raises \$90,000

**T**he 2000 Charitable Contribution Campaign, "The Heart of the Community," generated more than \$90,000 in donations to benefit community non-profit organizations, announced BART General Manager Tom Margro.

Helen Price, Senior Clerk in Contract Management Administration, coordinated the campaign. Helen says her experience was a good one. "I had fun, was stressed at times, but overall enjoyable."

The annual employee giving campaign generated

over \$90,000, more than a 25% increase over 1999. You can continue to give via a one-time donation or through a payroll deduction.

"I commend everyone for your generous support and effort to make a difference in the lives of so many individuals," said BART General Manager Tom Margro. "A special thanks goes to those BART employees who served as donor representatives and made this campaign a success." 

# Capture the Dream

## A Birthday Tribute to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Martin Luther King Commemorative Committee presented its birthday tribute to Reverend King on January 11, at the MetroCenter Auditorium in Oakland. This year's celebration was a standing room only event with over 200 people in attendance. The room was decorated with patriotic drapes and beautiful flowers.

Master of Ceremonies James Archie welcomed guests and introduced two of the event's notable speakers and the guest performer. His opening remarks summarized Dr. King's speech at the monument, challenging the audience to capture the dream, and paying tribute to a man and how he lead his life. The theme "Capture the Dream" was to serve as a challenge. Where does each of us stand? Are we capturing the ideals, the thoughts, and the ideas from Dr. King's speech?

The Committee was pleased to have Lady Bianca as guest musician and singer. Lady Bianca has a voice that's rooted in the tradition of Gospel, Blues and Rhythm and Blues, a sound indigenous to the Bay Area. She performed two of her original songs with lyrics that took on life's issues with insight, purpose and humor.

Willie B. Kennedy, BART Board President and Carole Ward Allen, BART Board of Directors, District 4, gave opening comments. Thomas E. Margro, BART General Manager conveyed his personal thoughts and introduced the keynote speaker of the program, Ms. Jane Brunner, Vice Mayor of Oakland. The Vice Mayor reported on the City of Oakland's active programs, including low cost housing and increasing job opportunities. "It was interesting to hear the Vice Mayor speak in terms of translating Dr. King's ideas into a very practical reality for the City of Oakland of improving the living standards of all its citizens," said Mae Meidav.

"The program was well received and re-energized the audience," said Jim Archie.

To close the program, Lady Bianca led everyone in a "Blues rendition" of "Lift Every Voice and Sing".



Members of the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Committee and BART General Manager Tom Margro. Left to right: Mike Healy, Hershell Levi, Cheryl Simien, Mae Meidav, Patricia Carter, James Archie, Tom Margro and Phyllis Pinkston.

Congratulations and thank you to members of the commemorative committee: James Archie, Patricia Carter, Karen Hill, Hershell Levi, Mae Meidav, Phyllis Pinkston, and John Purcell for their individual and collective efforts on creating and coordinating an inspiring event. Thank you to Roger Johnson of the BART Reproduction Center for producing the program and to the Department of Media and Public Affairs for supporting this annual commemorative program.

In the words of Dr. King, "I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream."

"Capture the dream."



# Transportation & System Service Employee Recognition Program

Al Johnson, Chief Transportation Officer is pleased to announce the Transportation & System Service Employee Recognition Program, which will recognize Transportation employees for their efforts in providing excellent customer service.

"Station Agents, Train Operators and System Service Workers are not the only employees responsible for the positive customer satisfaction results – we all have that responsibility. However, these three classifications are directly responsible for delivering customer service as they are the primary employees our customers have contact with. It's time for our station agents, train operators and system service workers to receive public recognition for their efforts in providing excellent customer service," said Al.



System Service Worker Pedro Banda receives an outstanding achievement award for his quick thinking and actions that saved the life of a customer. Pictured left to right: Paul Becker, Herman Gomez, Melva Hunter, Pedro Banda, SEIU Vice President John Maher, Al Johnson and Betty Soo Hoo.



Station Agent Thomas Williams (center) receives customer service award from ATU President Bob Smith (left) and Chief Transportation Officer Al Johnson for consistently providing outstanding customer service above and beyond the call of duty.

The "Transportation & System Service Employee of the Month" awards will be presented to a train operator for "commitment to excellence", a station agent for "customer service", and to a system service worker for "outstanding achievement".

Congratulations to January 2001 "Employee Of The Month" recipients, Pedro Banda, system service worker (Coliseum), John Reinig, train operator (OCY), and Thomas Williams, station agent (Dublin/Pleasanton).

Pedro, John, Thomas, and future recipients will receive public and district recognition, a lapel pin, achievement certificate and plaque, a \$25.00 gift certificate to BART's company store, and will be honored at the quarterly awards ceremony luncheon to be held sometime later this spring.

In addition to the "Employee Of The Month" awards, quarterly awards will be presented in the following areas: "Leadership" in recognition of Transportation foreworkers and supervisors; "Team Achievement" recognizing team efforts; performance, and/or accomplishments of the departments employees as well as district employees who partner with the Transportation Department; and "The Eagle", recognizing the employee who demonstrates leadership, wisdom, and inspiration through perseverance, courage, compassion, and integrity.

Any BART employee or customer may make nominations by note, letter, or nomination form. Nominations are to be sent to Transportation, LMA-2, or faxed to Lynnette Slaten at ext. 6731.

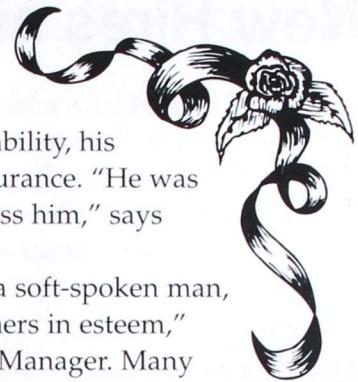
March "Employee Of The Month" nominations are due by April 5, with monthly nominations due on the 5th of each month.

Quarterly award nominations for the 1st quarter of 2001 are due by April 9, with subsequent nominations due July 5, 2001, October 5, 2001 and January 5, 2002. **b3**



Train Operator John Reinig receives recognition award in appreciation of his commitment to excellence by setting the standard for teamwork, leadership and pride. His professional public service announcements and outstanding knowledge of rail operations is recognized by many. Pictured left to right: John Semien, Jim McHenry, John Reinig and Larry Ziegler.

# Robert Rhodes Remembered



**R**obert Rhodes, our co-worker and friend died on January 12. Robert came to BART four years ago. He worked as a maintenance engineer in the Power & Mechanical section within the Maintenance and Engineering Department.

"Robert was an intelligent and hard worker," says Duane Condit, Section Manager and Robert's supervisor. "His work had to be significant, had to have an impact. He had a good work ethic. His craftsmanship was important to him. He was a valuable worker and an asset to BART." On a recent Vocational Day held at the District, he gave the department's presentation. He was very excited and really enjoyed relating to the kids. The kids were impressed by him, states Duane. Duane considered Robert a friend and co-worker. He was always quick to say "hello" and a how are you doing. "We talked about sports, boxing, and of course the 49ers. He was an avid sports fan, and followed baseball and football, always having something to say about the latest game," remembers Duane.

Vince Ciccarello, co-worker and friend knew Robert for 5 1/2 years. They met at Los Medanos College in electrical continuing education classes. "He was always there. I could go to him. He would listen, giving his objective opinion with understanding," reflects Vince. Vince and Robert would go to baseball and football games together.

He admired Robert's athletic ability, his sense of fair play, and his endurance. "He was a true friend. I am going to miss him," says Vince.

"We remember Robert as a soft-spoken man, good friend, one who held others in esteem," says Richard Rounke, Section Manager. Many who knew Robert remember him as a good family man, who thought a lot about his children. They were important to him. He was a loving, devoted, and proud father.

Robert had a long career in the navy, where he received his electrical training and experience. After leaving the navy, he worked for different contractors before coming to BART.

A memorial service was held at the International Brotherhood Electrical Workers Union Hall (not affiliated with BART) on January 20. Family, friends, and co-workers attended honoring Robert, wife Beverly, and his children, Robert, Rani, and Regina. The reception was a celebration of Robert's life, reflections on the man he was, and the joy that his life brought to those who knew him. Several of Robert's navy buddies were in attendance. They reminisced about their friendships with Robert and the times they shared many years ago.

We extend our condolences to Robert's loved ones. 

## 20 Years with BART



BART employees who recently achieved 20 years of service include (standing, left to right) Bertha Howard, Robin Cody, Richard Bentley, Richard Abdelnour, Gregory Graham, Aston McLachlan, George Tatarka, Donald Miller, Ed Pittson, Josey Jefferson, Brendan MacIntrye and Joanna Full; (kneeling, left to right) Denis McNicoll, Frank Lau, Jack Yee, Manaois Emmanuel, John B. Pitcher, Herbert Lim and Robert Fernandez. 

# New Hires and Promotions

**B**ART Police Department announced the promotions of five veteran officers. According to BPD Chief Gary Gee, the newly promoted police managers are assigned to the Patrol Bureau and report to Commander Clark Lynch. "The feedback on the promotions from the ranks and other employees has been overwhelmingly positive," said Gary.

**Alan Feia**, a 16-year veteran of the department, was promoted to Lieutenant. He is responsible for all police operations during weekend day-shift hours. Alan is a member of the Special Problems and Response (SPAR) team, BPD's equivalent of a SWAT team. He is also a state-certified police bicycle instructor and was a Field Training Officer.

**Thom Pennewell** was promoted to Lieutenant. He has been with the department for 19 1/2 years. Thom joined BPD after four years as an Oakland police officer. Thom was a Detective, Juvenile Officer, Field Team Officer, and SPAR team member. He is one of three-BPD officers to receive the department's Medal of Valor.

**John Austin**, a 16-year BPD veteran, was promoted to Sergeant. Previously, he was a Detective and Field Training Officer. John is also a member of SPAR and a defensive-tactics instructor.

**Mark Macaulay** was promoted to Sergeant after 7 1/2 years with the department. He was previously a police officer in Daly City and San Francisco for 12 years. Mark was a Field Training Officer with BPD and SFPD.

**Keith Smith** was promoted to Sergeant after 11 years with the department. He was previously an Emeryville police officer. Keith was a Detective and is a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team.

**Bill Yee** joined BART on February 12 as Drafting Supervisor in the Drafting and Configuration Control Department. Bill came to BART from DES, Inc., where he was a CAD supervisor. His BART responsibilities include directing ten CAD associates: planning, assignments, schedules, organization and developing new drafting procedures. He is also in charge of BART engineer change orders (BECOs). Bill was hired for his vast knowledge of AutoCAD software, his many years of supervisory experience, and his creativity in creating CAD standards. "I look forward to Bill's implementation and simplification of new concepts and ideas," says Kirk Marshall, the department's manager.

Barbara George, Manager of Employee Services is very pleased to announce the following:

**Margaret Saget** has been promoted from Drug Testing Coordinator to Senior Employee Services Representative. Margaret has been with BART for 3 1/2 years. She has extensive experience in drug testing and substance abuse treatment and is a certified drug and alcohol counselor and substance abuse professional. "Margaret brings great compassion, sensitivity, and understanding to her new role," said Barbara.

**Helen Jones** has joined BART as Drug Testing Coordinator, formerly an on-site drug testing collector contractor for BART. Helene was previously the drug testing coordinator for Union Pacific and other railroad properties. She has extensive experience in drug testing and in federal mandate for drug testing. Helene joins the Human Resources Department's Employee Services division as one of its four employees and five-contractor drug testing collectors. 

## 30 Years *continued from front page*

The Shops and Structures department is responsible for the design and construction of capital improvements to BART's maintenance, engineering and operations department.

Jim is Principle Engineer in the department, acting as project manager on the Platform Edge Rehabilitation program, which is responsible for replacing safety zone tiles in the stations.

Jim graduated from a military academy high school in Ohio, the same one as George Steinbrenner, of the New York Yankees. He entered into the Army and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. "The military is in his blood, so is the discipline, making Jim the perfect guy for the job", states Steve. "He is completely dedicated to preparation."

Jim has something very much in common with Oliver

Stone, the filmmaker. He is not only "obsessed" with solving President John F. Kennedy's assassination, he thinks he has solved it. (Hmm, perhaps a future article for *BARTalk*.) Jim, Steve, and another BART peer flew to Dallas, Texas for a day, their purpose to visit as many sites dealing with JFK. He has even taken over a conference room and filled it with Kennedy history and memorabilia. Jim, Steve and Kevin are planning a spring trip to Dallas. They plan to land at Love Field, where JFK landed, and ride the motorcade route.

An avid Giants fan, Jim frequents PacBell Park for games.

Jim has incredible patience and perseverance. He has nurtured a northfolk pine tree for twenty years, from 2 inches high, to its current height of 5-feet, which is contained in a 5-gallon container located in his BART office.



# Holiday Booth Winners

Tra-la-la...The Transportation & System Service Department held its annual holiday booth-decorating contest last December.

The station agents who participated registered with the department, a new change from previous years. Each participant was required to announce his or her theme. The most popular theme this year was gingerbread, with 4 booths having it as their central decorative display.

The judges were selected from other departments. They were Barbara Loughry from Reliability Analysis, Hal Nelson from Customer Access, and Sarah Nelson from Marketing.

The registered booths were judged on originality, decorating theme applicable to the holidays, and creativity without hindering operations. The judges felt the booth decorations were very original and ingenious, which made their job all the more difficult.

Congratulations to 1st place winners Pauline Vargas and Helen Lopez, for their "Big Box of Christmas Goodies." Their booth was decorated with Christmas boxes wrapped in different colors of foil paper with big shiny bows and golden reindeer stood watch. "This place is shouting Merry Christmas," said one of the judges. Pauline and Helen will be relaxing with their spa packages at the Claremont Spa Resort.

Second place was awarded to Eryn Yula and Shirrell Bateman, for their gingerbread booth. Eryn and Shirrell will be stepping out on the town, with dinner and a Broadway show for themselves and their respective guests.

Third place winners were Mary Engler-Contreras and Victoria Vallee, for "A Gingerbread Christmas." Their prize selection is dinner or a Broadway show.

Catherine Ferguson captured 4th place. Her booth was a children's theme. She constructed a roof in her garage and placed it on top of her booth to make it look like a gingerbread house. Catherine will be enjoying dinner for two.

We would like to acknowledge the other participants for their contributions: Dottie Altizer, Asiann Chan, Eddie Davis, Diane Forbes, Margaret Moreno, Wendy Rhodes, Marjorie Washington, Terry Chiu, Victoria Hom-Roan, Dektra Miller, Charlotte Newton, Simona Valdez, Antoinette Bernette, Robbie Chong, Stephanie Jefferson, Tamara Miller, Jill Smith, Vivian Williams, Carol Carter, Ernie Dandan, Marilyn Fong, Linda Karriem, Edith Miranda, Joyce Thompson, Cynthia Held and Andrea Warren.

All participants received something sweet for their efforts; a one-pound box of holiday gift-wrapped See's candy.

"The Holiday Booth Decorating Contest allows our Station Agents to provide another form of service to our Customers. It is not rare to see families posed in front of a booth taking pictures during the holiday season," says Fannie Mackson, Acting Manager, Station Operations Support.

Congratulations and thank you to each of you for making the holiday season a little more colorful and cheerful. **b**

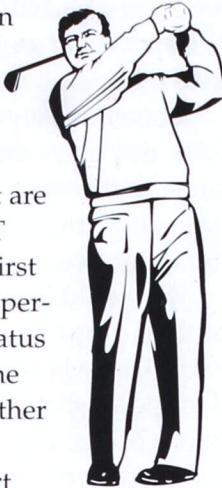


## 15 Years with BART

BART employees who recently achieved 15 years with the District include (standing, left to right) Teresita B. Heneghan, Melena Gallagher, Victor Martinez, Bill McCoy, Ann Matthews, Kenneth Bohanan, Kenyon, Divino Elly, David G. Lehrer, Christopher Flynn and Rhonda Morrow; (kneeling, left to right) John R. Cardenas, Leonard Purdy, Ron Moland, Renato Uychoco and Robert Abao. **b**

# Watch the Birdie!

**B**ART will hold its 7th annual open invitational golf tournament at the Brentwood Golf club on Saturday, May 5. Shotgun is at 1:30pm.



The tournament is a "four player scramble". Players of all levels of talent are encouraged to join in the fun. All BART employees are eligible on a first come first serve basis. Guests are welcome, space permitting. Players with valid N.C.G.A. status will play the February 1, 2000 index. The tournament committee will assign all other players a temporary handicap.

An afternoon of golf (green and cart fees), and an evening dinner at the Bunkers Grill for \$100.00. Also included are tee prizes, tournament prizes, and a commemorative tee shirt.

Contests are "closest to the hole" and "longest drive" (male and female), "hole-in-one", and a special "Beat the General Manager."

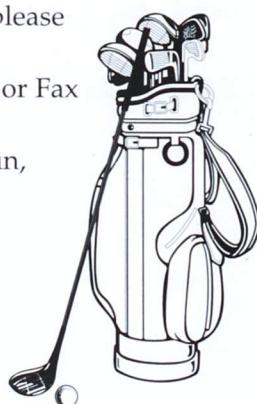
Your official entry form and entry fee must be received in full no later than Thursday, April 5. For your convenience, a one-time Payroll Deduction Authorization may be completed and returned with your entry form.

The tournament committee will confirm your registration and whether your guest will be able to play. Non-playing guests are welcome to the Bunker Grill dinner for \$30.00. (See entry form.)

No refunds will be honored after April 11.

For answers to your questions, please contact Victoria Palmer at the Pittsburgh/BayPoint office, ext. 5656, or Fax 5657, or Pat Patubo, ext. 6726.

Join the BART golfers for fun, sun, and "birdies." 



# **BARTalk**



**A publication for and about the  
employees of the San Francisco  
Bay Area Rapid Transit District**

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**Thomas E. Margro** *General Manager*  
**Mike Healy** *Department Manager,  
Media & Public Affairs*  
**Vicki L. Wills** *Editor, BARTalk*

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*Due to the number of employees who recently reached 30 years of service with the District, BARTalk will honor these employees in the next issue.*